

an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

51. (Twice Amended) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for insertion into a body passageway comprising the steps of:

providing an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

providing a tissue adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

68. (Twice Amended) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:
a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

96. (Thrice Amended) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for insertion into a body passageway comprising the steps of:

providing a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

providing a tissue adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

113. (Amended) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:
an expandable stent that is expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration; and

a tissue configured to avoid exposure of the expandable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body passageway.

114. (Amended) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:
a deformable stent that is deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a
second geometrically stable configuration; and
a tissue configured to avoid exposure of the deformable stent to circulating body fluids
when the assembly is inserted into the body passageway.

117. (Amended) An assembly for insertion into a body to form a portion of a body
passageway comprising:
an expandable member that is expandable from a first geometrically stable configuration
to a second geometrically stable configuration; and
a tissue disposed adjacent to the expandable member,
wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the
body passageway after expansion of the expandable member.

129. (Amended) An assembly for insertion into a body to form a portion of a body
passageway comprising:
a deformable member that is deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration
to a second geometrically stable configuration; and
a tissue disposed adjacent to the deformable member,
wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the
body passageway after deformation of the deformable member.

Please add the following claims:

165. (New) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:
an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the
expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member
relative to the body passageway; and
a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

166. (New) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for insertion into a body passageway comprising the steps of:

providing an expandable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the expandable member being expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to the body passageway; and

providing a tissue adjacent to the interior surface of the expandable member.

167. (New) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to the body passageway; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

168. (New) A method of preparing a graft prosthesis for insertion into a body passageway comprising the steps of:

providing a deformable member having an interior surface defining a longitudinal passage, the deformable member being deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to the body passageway; and

providing a tissue adjacent to the interior surface of the deformable member.

169. (New) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

an expandable stent that is expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable stent relative to the body passageway; and

a tissue configured to avoid exposure of the expandable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body passageway.

170. (New) An assembly for insertion into a body passageway comprising:

a deformable stent that is deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable stent relative to the body passageway; and

a tissue configured to avoid exposure of the deformable stent to circulating body fluids when the assembly is inserted into the body passageway.

171. (New) An assembly for insertion into a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:

an expandable member that is expandable to an extent necessary to secure the expandable member relative to the body passageway; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the expandable member,

wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after expansion of the expandable member.

172. (New) An assembly for insertion into a body to form a portion of a body passageway comprising:

a deformable member that is deformable to an extent necessary to secure the deformable member relative to the body passageway; and

a tissue disposed adjacent to the deformable member,

wherein the assembly is constructed such that the assembly forms the portion of the body passageway after deformation of the deformable member.

REMARKS

Applicant's representatives appreciate the courtesy extended by Examiners Recla and Lewis during the interview on July 25, 2001.

During the interview it was agreed that, subject to further search, independent claims 141 and 153 are allowable as originally presented. It also was agreed that, subject to further search, independent claims 22, 51, 68, 96, 113, 114, 117, and 129 would be allowable if amended to recite either that (1) the expandable or deformable member is expandable or deformable from a first geometrically stable configuration to a second geometrically stable configuration or (2) the expandable or deformable member is expandable or deformable to an extent necessary to secure the member relative to a body passageway.